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LETTER DATED 26 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijani Republic regarding the latest aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan, as received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this and the above-mentioned letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the press service of the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijani Republic

After lengthy military preparations and propaganda activity, the armed forces of Armenia have once again violated the cease-fire agreement by launching a large-scale offensive, involving military formations deployed both in Nagorny Karabakh and in districts of the Republic of Armenia adjacent to Azerbaijan. This offensive operation is being conducted in the direction of towns and villages, adjacent to Iran, of the Zangelan, Djebrail and Fizuli districts. It led, on 25 October, to the occupation of several villages in the Djebrail and Fizuli districts. The village of Goradiz was seized and put to the torch. It was through Goradiz that Azerbaijan's lines of communication with the south-west Zangelan district and the adjacent unoccupied territory of the Kubatly district were routed.

As a result of the offensive, this zone, with a population of 60,000, has been cut off from the rest of the Republic and the civilian population now faces the threat of being annihilated by bombardment from Armenian artillery and armoured units.

The theatre of combat operations has been extensively widened by this new escalation in Armenian aggression, which has led to the effective internationalization of the conflict. Intensive combat operations are being conducted in the immediate vicinity of the frontier with Iran. There have been many instances of Armenian artillery shells being fired across the frontier and exploding in the territory of Iran. The unfolding situation is endangering not only the safety of Azerbaijan but also that of neighbouring States and the region as a whole.

One unhappy consequence of the latest military action by the Armenian side has been the number of victims among the civilian population. At the present time, 15,000 inhabitants of villages adjacent to Iran, fleeing from the advancing Armenian formations, have taken refuge along the frontier between Azerbaijan and Iran and 5,000 Azerbaijani citizens have been forced to cross the Iranian frontier. As things stand, the Armenian invaders control more than 40 kilometres of the section of the frontier between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Thus, Armenia has not only violated the cease-fire agreement for the umpteenth time, but has also mounted a large-scale operation which threatens to erupt in unforeseeable consequences for the wider region with a population of many millions. The situation in the south of Azerbaijan resulting from this latest Armenian military escalation demands an immediate reaction from the international community and its institutions. If the world continues to stand by impassively while the expansionist greed of the Armenian military machine mounts ever further, it will be taken by the high-handed aggressor as encouragement to commit new crimes.